

C2 -- 7 (Amended). Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the first upstanding stable support is one of a wall and a pole and wherein the second upstanding stable support is one of a wall and a pole.--

C3 -- 20 (Amended). Apparatus for use in playing and practicing ball games, comprising a ball suspended by a substantially inelastic upstanding line from an upper, generally inclined elongated guideway and connected by the same or a second substantially inelastic upstanding line to a lower, generally horizontal or inclined elongated guideway, a first upstanding stable support connected to the first ends of the upper and lower guideways, and a second, spaced apart, upstanding stable support connected to the second ends of the upper and lower guideways.--

C4 --22 (Twice Amended). Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the upper and lower guideway comprises a string or rope.--

Please add new claims 28-34 as follows:

--28 (New). Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a guide rope and a peg, wherein one end of the guide rope is attached to the top of one of the first and second upstanding stable supports and the other end is attached to the peg and wherein the peg is connected to the ground.

C5 (29) (New). Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the lower guideway between the first and second upstanding stable supports is slack when the ball is at rest.

(30) (New). Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the portion of the one or more upstanding lines between the ball and the lower guideway is slack when the ball is at rest.

31 (New). Apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising a guide rope and a peg, wherein one end of the guide rope is attached to the top of one of the first and second stable supports and the other end is attached to the peg and wherein the peg is connected to the ground.

32 (New). Apparatus for use in playing and practicing ball games comprising generally inclined upper guideway, generally inclined or horizontal lower guideway, substantially inelastic reciprocating means connected to and freely moveable along said upper and lower guideways, a ball connected to said reciprocating means, and at least one upstanding stable support connected to the end of the upper and lower guideways, wherein the lower guideway is slack when the ball is at rest.

33 (New). Apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the reciprocating means comprises a first upstanding line connected to the upper guideway and the ball and a second upstanding line connected to the ball and the lower guideway, wherein the lower upstanding line is slack when the ball is at rest.

34 (New). Apparatus for use in playing and practicing ball games comprising slanted upper guideway, generally horizontal lower guideway, substantially inelastic reciprocating means connected to and freely moveable along said upper and lower guideways, a ball connected to said reciprocating means, and at least one upstanding stable support connected to the end of the upper and lower guideways.

35 (New). Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the reciprocating means comprises a first upstanding line connected to the upper guideway and the ball and a second upstanding line connected to the ball and the lower guideway, wherein the lower upstanding line is slack when the ball is at rest.--